(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status; and

(c) the details of fresh steps outlined, if any, in the new scheme to address the problems/difficulties faced by the people inhabiting the far-flung areas of the country in getting these supplies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A pilot project covering 10% of blocks in the country has been recently approved by the Government for strengthening the distribution network of PDS kerosene with a view to working towards ensuring that this product is made available to the targeted consumers and is not diverted for adulteration. The Scheme proposes setting up wholesale storage facilities at block level, with storage tanks and calibrated dispensing units; creation of 5-10 sub-wholesale points within the block to facilitate deliveries to retail outlets; and involving Panchayati Raj Institutions in monitring the implementation of the scheme. The details are being worked out. In addition, Government have commissioned the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to conduct a study to ascertain the actual demand for kerosene in different States in the country. Further necessary action in deciding State-wise allocations of PDS kerosene would be taken after receiving this study report.

As regards domestic LPG, with a view to increasing the coverage in semi-urban/rural areas, Government have advised Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to prepare their expansion plans concentrating in these areas and taking innovative steps like opening community kitchens, sale of 5 kg. cylinders for low income group of customers, etc.

Complaints against LPG dealers in Bihar

4265. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG distributors/dealers of various companies in Bihar;

(b) the names of the owners/distributors/dealers in each case;

(c) the category to which they belong; and

(d) the details of complaints received against such distributors/dealers during the last two years and the current year so far and action taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) As on 1.1.2005, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 270 LPG distributorships in Bihar. The details of the owners, distributors and their category are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMC concerned.

(d) OMCs received 40 established complaints against the operation of their LPG distributors in Bihar during the last two years and the current year. Action against erring distributors has been taken in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement.

Production of oil from Bombay High Oil Wells

4266. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the oil production capacity at Bombay High Oil Wells;

(b) the present production per year;

(c) the cost of production of oil on an average;

(d) whether it is a fact that it is rapidly becoming difficult to pump oil economically from Bombay High; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that costs of production of oil at Bombay remain economical?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Mumbai High field is at the stage of natural decline. However, the decline in production from Mumbai High has been reversed as a result of the implementation of Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/ Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) projects by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC). The production of oil from the Mumbai High field from 2000-01 to 2004-05 is as under:—

Year	Crude Oil Production (Million metric tons)
2000-01	10.188
2001-02	9.818
2002-03	11.378
2003-04	11.646
2004-05	12.593